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MEMORANDUM

TO: Vermont Adult Performance Indicator Project Advisory Group

FROM: John Pandiani
Lisa Gauvin *Lisa*

DATE: October 1, 1997

RE: Utilization of Emergency Room Services by CRT Clients

This week's performance indicator continues our examination of practice patterns by focusing on rates of utilization of emergency room services by people who are served by Community Rehabilitation and Treatment programs in Vermont. This issue was raised at our last meeting.

We look forward to your comments on the quality of the data, the appropriateness of the analysis, and the effectiveness of the presentation of these data, as well as your interpretation of the results.

Utilization of Emergency Room Services by CRT Clients

QUESTION:

How many clients of CRT programs in Vermont use Emergency Room (ER) services during the course of a year? Do ER utilization rates vary among CRT programs in Vermont?

DATA:

Two data files were extracted from the Vermont Medicaid paid claims database. One file included information on all people who had been served by CRT programs during the year. The other file included all paid claims for "Emergency Department Visits" (procedure codes 99281-99288). The CRT data set includes the Medicaid ID number of every person served and the provider ID of the program they were served by. The ER file includes the Medicaid ID number and the ID number of the provider that was reimbursed for the emergency service.

ANALYSIS:

The two data files were linked using the unique Medicaid ID to identify clients who were represented in both data sets. The number of people in both data sets was then transformed into a percentage of all clients served by each CRT program during the year.

RESULTS:

Statewide, one out of every four CRT clients (25%) used ER services during 1996. This is somewhat higher than the 1996 ER utilization rate for all people who were covered by Medicaid on December 31, 1996 (21%). Franklin Grand Isle and UCS had the highest ER utilization rates (35% and 36% respectively). Southeast had the lowest ER utilization rate (18%), followed by Lamoille and Orange (21% each), and Howard and Rutland (22% each).

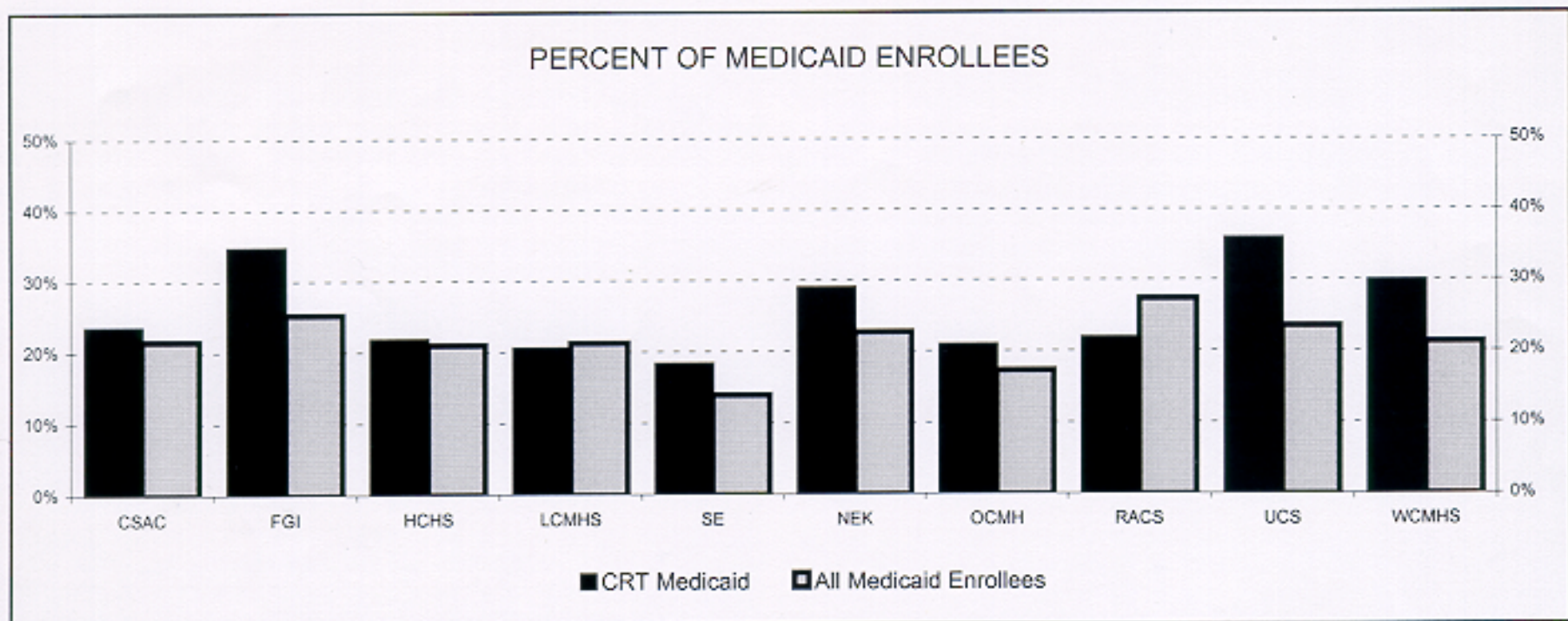
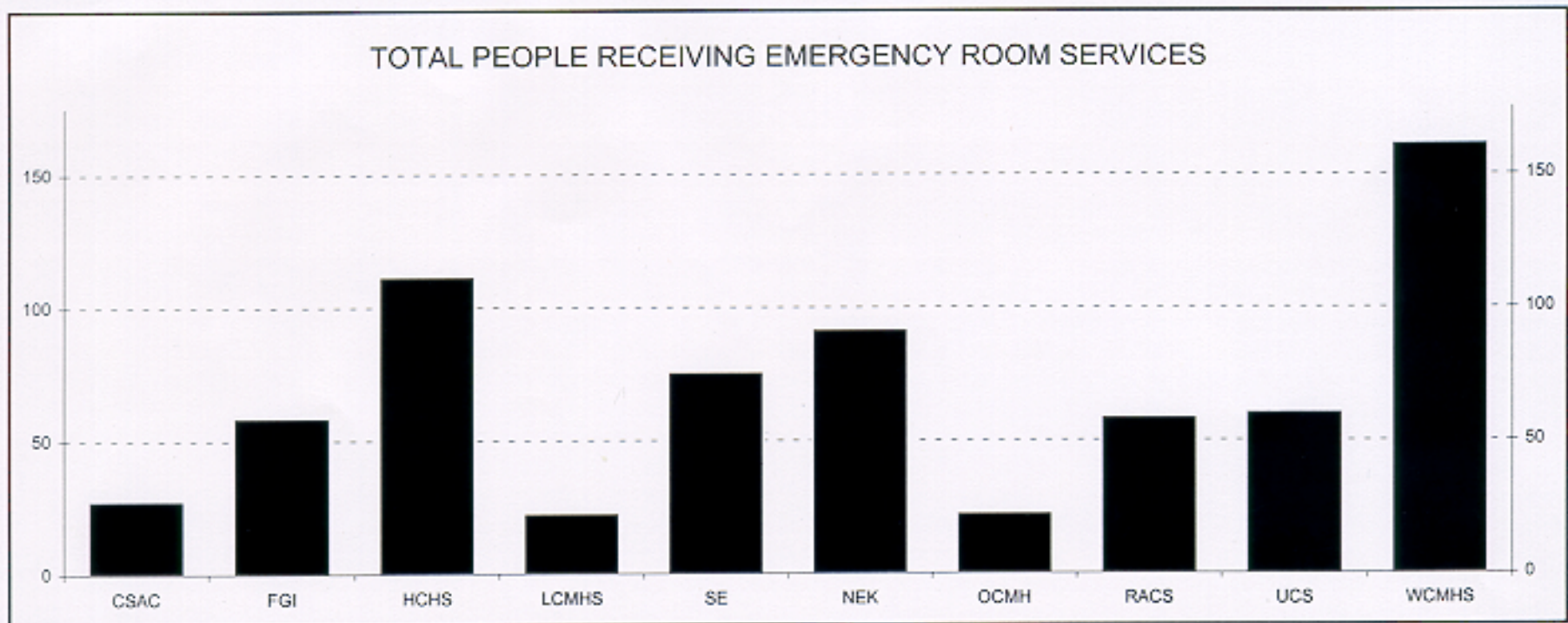
ER utilization rates for CRT clients were higher than rates for other Medicaid recipients in most regions. Rutland is the only region where CRT clients were less likely to use emergency rooms than others. The rates were about the same for Lamoille and Howard.

NEXT QUESTIONS:

Have these ER utilization rates been stable over time or have they changed substantially in recent years? Will these ER utilization rates change with the introduction of managed behavioral health care in Vermont?

How often do ER visits occur at local hospitals, how often do they happen in hospitals outside of the local community mental health service area?

COMMUNITY REHABILITATION AND TREATMENT PROGRAMS MEDICAID CLIENTS RECEIVING EMERGENCY ROOM SERVICES DURING 1996



	Total CRT People	Community Rehabilitation and Treatment Programs									
		CSAC	FGI	HCHS	LCMHS	SE	NEK	OCMHS	RACS	UCS	WCMHS
Total People Served	2,667	119	170	514	112	415	318	110	270	170	542
Total CRT With Paid Emergency Room Claims											
Number	660	28	59	112	23	76	92	23	59	61	162
Percent	25%	24%	35%	22%	21%	18%	29%	21%	22%	36%	30%
	Total Enrollees	Catchment of Residence									
		Addison	FGI	Chitt	Lamolle	SE	NEK	Orange	Rutland	Benn	Wash
Total Adult Enrollees	48,278	2,343	4,975	7,994	1,816	6,967	7,163	2,838	6,030	3,194	4,958
Total Medicaid Adults With Paid Emergency Room Visits											
Number	10,369	506	1,258	1,679	386	971	1,626	490	1,650	750	1,053
Percent	21%	22%	25%	21%	21%	14%	23%	17%	27%	23%	21%

Analysis includes Medicaid paid claims during calendar 1996. Medicaid enrollees are people enrolled as of December 31, 1996. Adults include people age 18 years and older.